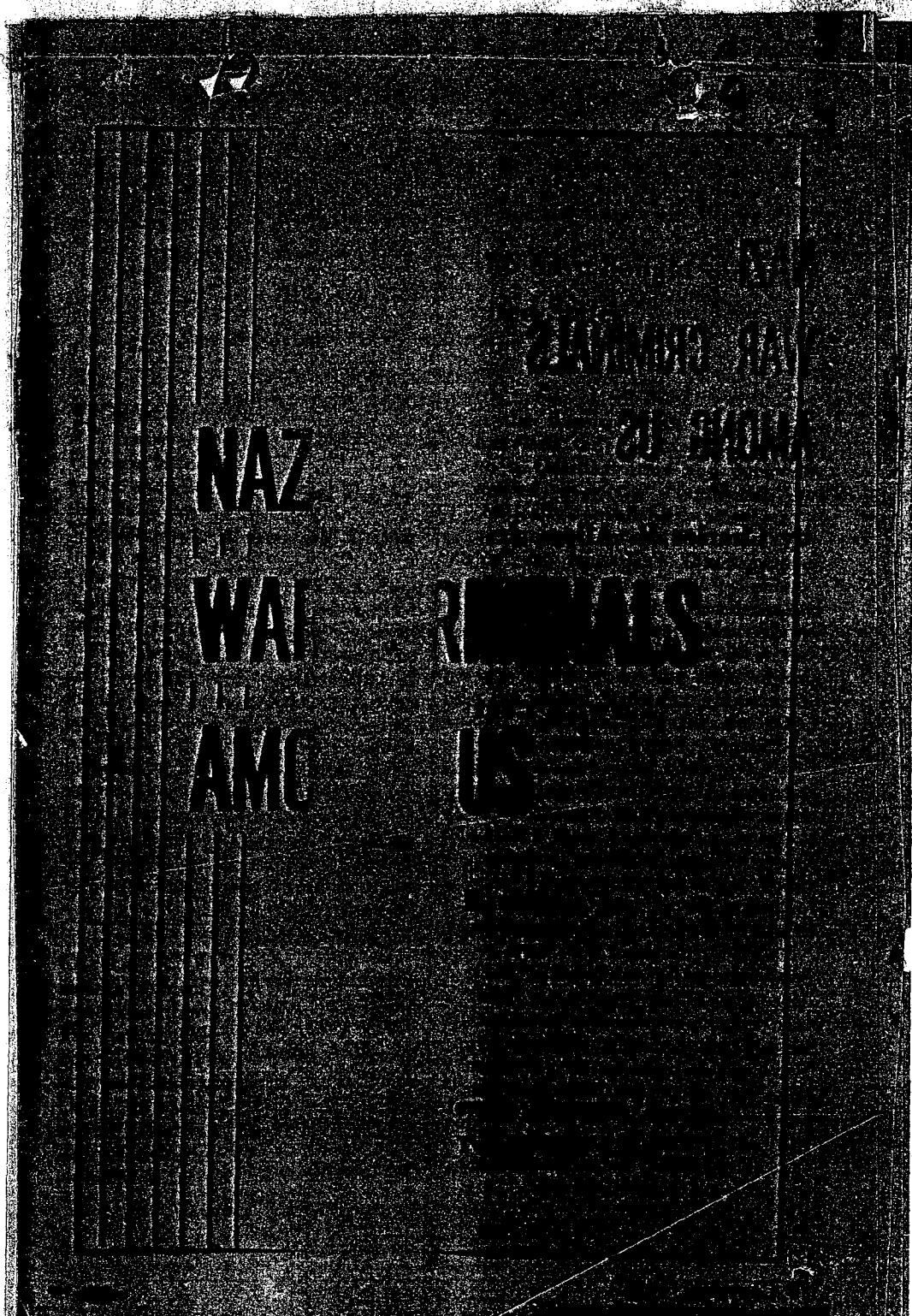


DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2004 2006



## **From Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia alleged mass killers have sought refuge here**

### ***Ostland: Deliberate Terror***

AS EARLY AS 1933, Hitler's Nazi Party had begun to plan against the day when Germany would invade, conquer and rule the Soviet Union. The early plans directed the formation of native fascist organizations which were the beginnings of fifth column activities inside the USSR and countries bordering it. Eventually, these "Sections" of the "Brown International" (headed on, as was demonstrated at the 1946 Nuremberg Trial of the major Nazi war criminals by Alfred Rosenberg, who was hanged) were incorporated into the master military plan for the 1941 invasion of Russia called Operation Barbarossa.

Operation Barbarossa specifically provided that the invading Nazi Wehrmacht would control the native collaborators, who, in collusion with the Wehrmacht and Hitler's SS, would carry out "special tasks": the extermination of all " Jews, Slavs and Communists" and anti-Nazis.

Forming the strategic northeastern

salient of the Nazi drive into the Soviet Union was the Reichskommissariat Ostland, comprising Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, along with a section of Byelorussia.

Rosenberg himself wrote a memorandum to Hitler describing what would take place in Ostland. In Latvia and Estonia, he wrote, "banishment [i.e., deportations to concentration camps] on a large scale will have to be envisioned . . . The job of feeding the German people stands at the top of Germany's claims on the East. There is no doubt that as a result, many millions of persons will have to be starved to death . . ." (W. L. Shirer, *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, pages 832-33).

Rosenberg himself further described the purpose of Ostland: "The object of the Commissariat for Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Byelorussia must be to form a German Protectorate, and then by Germanizing of racially suitable elements, by colonization of Germanic tribes, and by expulsion of unwanted elements, to transform this re-

gion into a part of the Greater German Reich. The Baltic Sea must become a German inland sea." [I. Heydecker and J. Leeb, *The Nuremberg Trial*, World Pub. Co., N. Y., 1962, p. 229.]

The Nazis and their collaborators deliberately enslaved, tortured, starved and murdered literally millions of people to further the Ostland Plan. In Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, that is, Ostland, Prof. Hilberg estimates over 200,000 Jews were exterminated (Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, p. 670).

The Nazi Wehrmacht and the SS *Einsatzgruppen* (extermination squads) could not have visited their appalling slaughter on the peoples of these countries without the help of their collaborators.

When in 1943-44 the Red Armies smashed the Hitler invaders thousands of Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian collaborators fled with the retreating Nazi armies.

Many of them burrowed into the rubble and ruins of post-war Germany and, in later years, made their way eventually to England, Canada, Australia, Argentina, Spain and the United States.

#### "Men Without Conscience"

IN LATVIA in 1934, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* records, "The German minority became nazified (and) the Latvian branch of the Baltischer Bruderschaft (the Baltic Brotherhood, a creature of Rosenberg's Brown International—C. R. A. F. whose program was the incorporation of the Baltic states into the Third Reich had to be suppressed. A Fascist organization called *Perkonkrust* (variously translated as 'Thundercross' or 'Fiery Cross') seemed ready to seize power." (1957 ed., Vol. 13, p. 763.)

Although the 1934 coup was averted it was the *Perkonkrust* which supplied many of the collaborators who worked as police auxiliaries with the *Einsatzgruppen* when the Nazis invaded the Baltic states. Prof. Hilberg incisively points out that "the importance of the [police] auxiliaries" in the killing operations of the *Einsatzgruppen*—in which ultimately 1,450,000 Jews in Russia alone were murdered—"should not be under-estimated."

Dr. Hilberg writes, "Roundups by local inhabitants who spoke the local language resulted in higher percentages of Jewish dead." In the Baltic states the auxiliary police were organized very rapidly. "In Latvia auxiliaries were ... used by *Einsatzkommandos* I b and 2 ... the Latvians were able helpers" (p. 205).

There was recently published in Riga, Latvia, a long documented pamphlet, *Men Without Conscience*, issued by the Latvian section of the Committee of Repatriation and Cultural Relations with Countrymen Now Living in Foreign Lands, apparently a quasi-governmental organization of the Latvian S. S. R.

This work names five persons who either live in the United States or, as in one case, frequently commutes to this country; they are all charged with varying degrees of war crimes.

*Alfreds Skrodelis* is a pastor of the Latvian Evangelical Church in Canada who, though living in Hamilton, Ontario, services the parish of the Church of Christ in Detroit, Mich. He is charged with having been a member of the *Perkonkrust* and, while chaplain of a Latvian Security Regiment in the 30's, becoming a member of the German SD (Sicherheitsdienst), Secret Police under Himmler. His first job before the Hitler invasion

was to inform the Nazis in Germany about the political convictions of the very men he served as chaplain in the Latvian army.

The Rev. Skrodele, then, "collected information about the people of Maxsala (where he was a minister), with special attention paid to the intellectuals. Those sympathetic to the illegal Perkonkrust, he enlisted as spies for the fifth column he was building up," the Riga pamphlet asserts.

"Skrodele immediately enlisted in the police auxiliary, which rewarded him with 1,000 reichsmarks," when the Wehrmacht swept into Latvia, the pamphlet states. "Using the lists supplied by Skrodele, the fascists began their program of extermination of all anti-fascists in the area." From the Valmiera concentration camp alone, 4,500 people were deported to Polish extermination centers.

The Riga document also names four other persons whom it alleges were Nazi collaborators in Latvia. They are Karin Sautin of Cleveland; Peter Neznaia of Indianapolis; J. Arnold Ernsdorf of San Francisco and Edmundus Minton (Mica), in Tacoma, Wash.

I checked out the names and addresses of each of them several days later and learned that 1) the identities and locations as published in the Riga document are correct, and 2) each is a recent immigrant from Latvia.

#### *April Sales Account With You!*

OUT in Suffolk county in the pleasant village of Greenlawn lives Karl Linna, age 43, with his wife and three children under material circumstances more comfortable than those enjoyed by most Americans. Despite the fact that he has admitted having been a member of the collaborationist Estonia "National Army," and

#### **JEWISH WAR VETERANS ACT**

THE Jewish War Veterans Jan. 29 released a letter to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy by Morton London, J. W. V. National Commander, asking about the status in Washington of Gustav Hilger, former Nazi diplomat now a consultant in Eastern European Affairs by the State Department. Hilger is described by Mr. London as "the right-hand man for Ribbentrop in organizing pro-Fascist, anti-Jewish and other elements in Russia in the interest of the Nazi cause" during World War II.

The same day Mr. Morton wrote to Senator Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.) of the Senate Special Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees to close loopholes that permit Nazis to enter the U.S.A. as has been done by the Croatian fascist Ante Pavelic and many others.

In his first article in this series in our Jan. issue, Mr. Allen uniquely exposed Hilger's activities in Washington and outlined the cases of Ante Pavelic and other Nazis and collaborators with Nazis now in the U.S.A.

despite his admission that he was in charge of a guard over the Nazi concentration camp in Tartu, he was granted American citizenship in 1960.

Linna is the object of an extradition request from the Soviet Union which, according to the *N.Y. Times* Oct. 13, 1961, "accused [Linna] of having supervised the killing of Soviet citizens at a German concentration camp at the Estonian city of Tartu, and of having directed the shooting of people and personally finished survivors with pistol shots."

Linnas' name was first mentioned during the 1961 trial of Estonian war criminals, who eventually were shot. That trial was in an open court covered by the world's press. The *N.Y. Times* March 12, 1961, quoted the Estonian state prosecutor, who said that many of the Estonian war criminals had fled in 1944 with the Nazi armies. They had found refuge with Baltic emigre groups—all highly organized—in Austria, Australia, Sweden, Canada, England and the United States. Furthermore "American authorities are giving protection to Felix Edurants, a war criminal and former commissioner of the Estonian police," the prosecutor stated.

The *Times* May 23, 1961, then reported that the newspaper *Soviet Estonia* charged six men with "war crimes committed in 1941" at the Nazi concentration camp in Tartu, Estonia, where 12,000 East Europeans were killed, including 2,000 Jews." The Estonian newspaper identified not only Linnas but also Johann Soodla as being "in the United States." Linnas, the newspaper stated, had been "chief of a guard detail" at the camp.

In the same *Times* story, it was reported: "Mr. Linnas, 41 years old, said today he had been a reservist in the Estonian military forces and had been in charge of guard duty detail 'for some months' in 1941 at the Nazi concentration camp in his native city of Tartu. He said the Estonian armed forces 'had nothing to do' with killings in the concentration camp."

**The claim by Linnas that the** Estonian military "had nothing to do" with killings in the Nazi concentration camp and that the Estonian armed forces "had nothing to do" with the Nazi occupation forces is a flat lie.

The recognized scholarly authori-

ties have established indisputably that the Nazis enlisted the scum of the earth—when they invaded Estonia—"Himmler began to take all manner in small national regiments which had been enlisted for home duties in Estonia and Latvia," records the noted historian, Gerald Reitlinger, in *The House Built on Sand* (Viking, N.Y., 1960, p. 149): "Young Nordic types with Scandinavian or Germanic features, they responded perfectly to the new conception of the pan-Germanic SS." In fact the Latvians and Estonians were destined to provide some of the best SS divisions.

The "best" SS in Estonia were the *Einsatzgruppen*, which employed "guard units" of the kind that Linnas admits he headed. Prof. Hilberg notes: "[In] Estonia, the [Nazi] army had set up an indigenous auxiliary (*Selbstschutz*) which was taken over by *Sonderkommando* 1a of *Einsatzgruppe A* to do its dirty work of shooting a handful of Jews left behind after the [1941] Soviet retreat" (*The Destruction of the European Jews*, p. 205).

The evidence which Dr. Hilberg uses is the Nazi "Operational Report" dealing with an "aktion" (a killing operation) in the Tartu area on Oct. 12, 1941:

"This was the period in which Linnas admitted to the *N.Y. Times* 'he had been in charge of guard duty detail for some months at the Nazi concentration camp in his native city of Tartu.' Yet he declares he and other Estonian military 'had nothing to do' with the Nazi atrocities!"

Reitlinger and other authorities estimate that "thousands" of collaborators fled with the Nazis in 1944. Karl Linnas also admitted to the *Times* that he had escaped with the Nazis to Germany and further admitted that he

"came to this country from Germany in 1951."

The trip from Germany to the United States by Karl Linnas was arranged for by several well-known figures in the very "National Committee" who had openly collaborated with the Nazis during the occupation of Estonia by the Nazis.

These organizations, wrote Reitlinger, "composed of former members of the National Directorates of the Baltic States" who had worked with Himmler, Rosenberg and Hitler in imposing the infamous *Ostland* on the Baltic peoples, "were evacuated from place to place across the fast shrinking German Reich" (p. 151).

Karl Linnas, then aged 22 (with "some months" of experience as a Nazi concentration camp guard under his belt) was among them. In a long talk with an official of the United States Immigration Service, I learned the names of those who have pressed for Linnas' citizenship. They include Aleksander Kutt, the self-appointed "chairman" of the so-called "Committee for a Free Estonia," a direct final descendant of the collaborationist "National Committee" which fled with their Nazi masters from wartime Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Linnas' own admissions of course are sufficient to bring him for the criminal role he played in Estonia, but I was curious about a statement made by his wife in the Times Oct. 13, 1961: "... his wife said they were confident that the United States would turn down the [Soviet] extradition request. She said that an investigation had been made last May when her husband's name was published with five others who had been accused of war crimes." At first, Linnas was "not at home"

#### ECHO IN LOS ANGELES

Samuel B. Gach, publisher of the *California Jewish Voice*, calls attention in his issue of Feb. 1 to Mr. Allen's exposé and deplores the "evident sluggishness and reluctance on the part of the 'investigators' to investigate" Mr. Allen's charges.

"Our investigators," writes Mr. Gach, "are too busy searching for the unfindable in Kennedy's Cuban policy; they leer villainously at any group suggesting that Peace is an honorable objective, and they haul in for questioning the Pacifica Foundation, operating three radio stations, only because divergent points of view are permitted to be aired . . ."

... when I called. "You see, he is working at night," she explained. But after a few minutes of conversation, when I asked his wife about the May, 1961, "investigation," she was called away from the phone by a deep male voice which yelled at her in a foreign tongue.

Linnas himself grabbed the phone: "What do you want?" he bellowed. "I thought you were 'not at home,'" I said.

"Oh, just this minute, I walked in with my hair cut," said of himself. "I gave my name and identified the reason for the call. Could he tell me what the investigation was which had been made in conjunction with the Soviet extradition request?"

He yelled: "Why, the government in Washington! That's who! Washington! They are all Communist lies, rotten lies! You want to do some more Communist propaganda work, is that right?"

I was not interested right now in the